GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public services – PR&RD Dept. – Allegations of corruption and irregularities in construction of New Building in the premises of O/o Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole – Departmental Proceedings against Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired – Under the provisions of Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 - Article of Charges – Orders - Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 117 **Dated: 04-03-2025**

Read the following:-

1. Vigilance Report No.42 (C.No.2073/V&E/d2/2020), dated:09.08.2024 of Director General, G.A.(V&E) Department.
2. Govt. Memo No.2534052/Vig.VI/2024, dt:16/12/2024.
3. Lr.No.Vig(III)/Ongole/V&E Report No.42/2025, dt:23.01.2025 of ENC, RWS&S received on 04.02.2025.
4. G.O.Ms.No.18, PR&RD (Vig.VI), dt:04/03/2025.

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Order:-

It is proposed to hold an inquiry against Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I). A statement of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each Article of Charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired is directed to submit written statement of his defense within (10) days from the date of receipt of this G.O.

4. He is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charge are not admitted. He should, therefore specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

(Contd.P-2)

5. Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department,, Ananthapuramu, now retired is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense on or before the date specified in para (3) above, or does not appear in person before the Inquiring Authority or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rules 20 of the APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991, or the orders/directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against him exparte, based on the material available on record.

6. Attention of Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from any person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department,, Ananthapuramu, now retired is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of the G.O. shall be acknowledged along with Annexure-I, II, III & IV.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole and Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired (w.e.) through the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Vijayawada.
The Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Vijayawada (with a request to serve the orders on the Charged Officer with dated acknowledgement and send the same to the Govt. for record)

Copy to
The General Administration (V&E) Department, Vijayawada.
The OSD to Hon'ble Dy CM (PR&RD, RWS and EFS&T).
The PR&RD (Est.II) Department.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI A.OMKARAM, THE THEN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, ONGOLE AND SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT, NOW RETIRED.

CHARGE:

That Sri A.Omkaram, Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ananthapuramu, now retired, during his tenure as Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole has committed irregularities in inviting tenders through single box tenders system for the work "Construction of New Division Office Building in the premises of O/o Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole" in violation of tender process, i.e., instead of inviting through e.procurement platform and instead of Three Box System relevant as against the Government Orders issued from time to time while inviting tenders.

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – II

STATEMENT OF THE IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF ARTCLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI A.OMKARAM, THE THEN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, ONGOLE AND SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT, NOW RETIRED:

The Director General, (Vig.&Enft.), General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department has submitted a Vigilance Report No.42 (C.No.2073/V&E/D2/2020), dated 09.08.2024 wherein the V&E officials conducted detailed enquiry based on the complaint petition of Sri Mamidi Venkata Ramanjaneyulu, S/o.Sri Obayya, Clock street, Godugupalem, Ongole on irregularities committed by Sri A.Omkaram, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole in the construction of New Building in the premises of O/o Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole in violation of tender process.

During the verification, the V&E has submitted the findings that the Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Circle, Ongole vide letter, dated 14.02.2019 submitted proposal for the following work to the CEO, ZPP Ongole for administrative sanction under supervision charges of NH widening works, based on the request of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division Ongole. As per G.O.Ms.No.24, dated 12.01.1996, the powers of the ZPP is limited to Rs.10.00 Lakhs. Therefore, the Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole submitted modified work proposals to the Chief Executive Engineer, ZPP, Ongole by dividing the work into parts thereby estimate of each sub-work was arrived at Rs.10.00 Lakhs and the same were approved by the General Body of Zilla Praja Parishad vide resolution No.1301, dated 21.02.2019 and 1396, dated 07.06.2019. The CEO, ZPP, Ongole accorded the administrative sanction to the work vide Proc.Rc.No.P3/20187/2019, dated 15.06.2019 (Sl.Nos.2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) along with other works.

As reported by the V&E, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole, now retired has accorded technical sanction for each work individually and invited the tenders through single box tender system for these works related to the construction of Division Office building at Ongole, i.e., Drawing Branch, Accounts Branch and Computer Section and the details are as follows.

Work-1: Construction of Division Office building at Ongole (Drawing Branch), Estt.Cost Rs.10 Lakhs:

As reported by the V&E, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole, now retired has accorded Technical Sanction for Rs.10.00 Lakhs vide DR No.768/2019-20, dated 29.12.2019 with ECV Rs.8,72,461/- based on SSR 2019-20 and has invited tenders vide Tender Notice No.09/AEE1/2019-20, dated 30.12.2019 by the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Ongole through single box tender system and concluded the agreement with Sri Chejarlamma Constructions, Ongole vide Agt.Dr.No.7/2019-20, dt.03.02.2020 with tender premium at the rate of (-) 0.40% less than ECV of Rs 8,72,461/- based on SSR 2019-20.

Thus, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole has invited tenders vide Tender Notice No.02/AEE1/2020-21, dated:17.04.2020 through single box tender system (box placed at division office only) as against Three Box Tender System prescribed by G.O.Ms.No.94, dated 01.07.2003. Also, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole now retired has failed to invite the tenders on e.procurement platform as per G.O.Ms.No.20, dated 06.07.2004 and G.O.Ms.No.2, dated 03.02.2014.

Work-2: Construction of Division Office building at Ongole (Account Branch), Estt.Cost Rs.10.00 Lakhs:

As reported by the V&E, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole now retired accorded Technical Sanction for Rs.10.00 Lakhs DR No.31/2019-20, dated 26.12.2019 with ECV Rs.8,76,369/- based on SSR 2019-20 and has invited tenders vide Tender Notice No.06/AEE1/2019-20, dated 27.11.2019 through single box tender system (box placed at division office only) as against Three Box Tender System prescribed by G.O.Ms.No.94, dated:01.07.2003.

Thus, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole now retired has failed to invite the tenders on e.procurement platform as per G.O.Ms.No.20, dated 06.07.2004 and G.O.Ms.No.2, dated 03.02.2014 and has concluded the agreement with M/s.Sri Chejarlamma Constructions, Ongole vide Agt.Dr.No.5/2019-20, dt.09.12.2019 with tender premium at the rate of (-) 0.50% less than ECV of Rs 8,76,369/- based on SSR 2019-20.

Work-3: Construction of Division Office building at Ongole (Computer Section), Estt. Cost Rs.10.00 Lakhs:

As reported by the V&E, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole now retired accorded Technical Sanction for Rs.10.00 Lakhs DR No.01/2019-20, dated 25.04.2020 with ECV Rs.8,73,157/- based on SSR 2019-20 and has invited tenders vide Tender Notice No.02/AEE1/2020-21, dated 17.04.2020 through single box tender system (box placed at division office only) as against Three Box Tender System prescribed by G.O.Ms.No.94, dated:01.07.2003.

Thus, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole now retired has failed to invite the tenders on e.procurement platform as per G.O.Ms.No.20, dated 06.07.2004 and G.O.Ms.2, dated 03.02.2014 and has concluded the agreement with M/s.Keshav Projects, Ongole vide Agt.Dr.No.5/2020-21, dt.01.07.2020 based on SSR 2019-20.

Hence, the allegation that Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole, now retired has invited tenders through box tenders system as against inviting open tenders on the e.platform for the construction of Division Office building at Ongole has been substantiated. The allegation that Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, RWS&S, Ongole, now retired, has split up the work into parts, is substantiated.

Thus, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Ongole, now retired has tenders were

invited tenders through box tenders system instead of inviting through e.procurement platform as per the GOs in force thereby preventing wide publicity for better competition in violation of the Government orders vide G.O.Ms.No.20, dated 06.07.2004 and G.O.Ms.2, dated 03.02.2014. Also, Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, RWS&S, Ongole has adopted Single Box system instead of Three Box Tender System in violation of the Government orders vide G.O.Ms.No.94, dated:01.07.2003. From this, it is evident that Sri A.Omkaram, the then Executive Engineer, RWS&S, Ongole, now retired has exhibited lack of devotion to duty and lack of integrity and for behaving in a manner unbecoming of a Government employee and has violated Rules 3(1), 3(2) and 3(5) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Hence the charge.

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – III

LIST OF THE DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI A.OMKARAM, THE THEN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, ONGOLE AND SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT, NOW RETIRED ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED:

1. Vigilance Report No.42 (C.No.2073/V&E/D2/2020), dated:09.08.2024 of Director General, G.A. (V&E) Department.
2. Govt. Memo No.2419701/Vig.VI/2024, dt:08.05.2024.
3. Govt. Memo No.2534052/Vig.VI/2024, dt:16/12/2024.
4. Lr.No.Vig(III)/Ongole/V&E Report No.42/2025, dt:23.01.2025 of ENC, RWS&S.

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE ARE FRAMED AGAINST SRI A.OMKARAM, THE THEN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, ONGOLE AND SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DEPARTMENT, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT, NOW RETIRED, ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

-NIL-

SHASHI BHUSHAN KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

SECTION OFFICER